

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1 – 12 (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) A method for manufacturing a hydrogen absorbing alloy having a CaCu_5 type crystal structure in its principal phase, comprising:

forming a melt of elemental components selected to form a hydrogen absorbing alloy;
and

adding a Mg source material to said melt in an amount of 0.1 to 1.0% by weight based on the entire weight of the hydrogen absorbing alloy,

wherein the Mg source material is a Mg alloy with a melting point of 650°C or higher.

14. (Previously Presented) A method for manufacturing a hydrogen absorbing alloy according to claim 13, wherein said melt comprises Ni and Co; and wherein the step of adding a Mg source material to said melt occurs after said melt forming step.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) A method for manufacturing a hydrogen absorbing alloy according to claim 13, wherein said Mg alloy is one of a Mg-Ni alloy and a Mg-Co alloy.

17. (New) A method for manufacturing a hydrogen absorbing alloy according to Claim 13, wherein the step of forming a melt is done in a high-frequency melting furnace.